

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAR 14 2005

003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

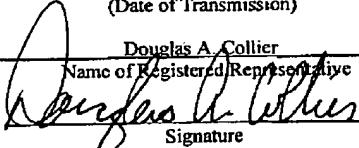
In re patent application of:)
)
 Trieu et al.) Before the Examiner
) Eduardo C. Robert
 Serial No. 10/083,199)
) Group Art Unit 3732
 Filed February 26, 2002)
) Atty Docket No. 4002-2950/PC464.00
 FLEXIBLE SYSTEMS FOR SPINAL)
 STABILIZATION AND FIXATION) March 14, 2005

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the non-Final First Office Action mailed December 13, 2004, in the above application, please consider and enter the following. No fees or extensions of time are believed due for consideration of the enclosed; however, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any fees which may be due to deposit account 12-2424, but not including the payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this Correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9306 on:	
<u>March 14, 2005</u> (Date of Transmission)	
_____ Douglas A. Collier Name of Registered Representative	
 _____ Signature	
<u>March 14, 2005</u> Date of Signature	

Response to First Office Action
 Ser. No. 10/083,199
 Atty Docket No. 4002-2950/PC464.00
 Page 1 of 14

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTERED
MAR 14 2005



FAX COVER PAGE

DATE: March 14, 2005

PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 16

TO: United States Patent and Trademark Office
COMPANY:

FAX NUMBER: (703) 872-9306
PHONE NUMBER:

FROM: Douglas A. Collier

DIRECT DIAL: (317) 238-6333
FAX NUMBER: (317) 636-1507

RE: Office Action Response for 10/083,199, Attorney Docket: 4002-2950/PC464.00

COMMENTS: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9306 on:

March 14, 2005
(Date of Transmission)

Douglas A. Collier
Name of Registered Representative
Douglas A. Collier
Signature

Hard copy will be sent via: Regular Mail Overnight Courier Fax Communication Only

Name of Sender: A. Patterson

Client Matter No.: DAC-99

WARNING CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

The documents constituting this fax transmittal contain confidential information belonging to the sender which is legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance upon the content of this fax transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax transmittal in error, please immediately notify us by telephone at the number below to arrange for return of the original documents to us. Thank you.

For Questions or Problems in Transmission, Please Contact our Fax Operators

KRIEG DEVault LLP

ONE INDIANA SQUARE
SUITE 2800
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
TELEPHONE-(317) 636-4341
FAX-(317) 636-1507

KRIEG DEVault LLP

12800 N MERIDIAN STREET
SUITE 300
CARMEL, IN 46032
TELEPHONE-(317) 566-1110
FAX-(317) 636-1507

KRIEG DEVault GALVIN

LLP
5231 HOHMAN STREET
HAMMOND, IN 46320
TELEPHONE-(219) 933-0380
FAX-(219) 933-0471

KRIEG DEVault LUNDY

LLP
825 ANTHONY WAYNE
BUILDING
203 EAST BERRY STREET
FT. WAYNE, IN 46802
TELEPHONE-(260) 422-1534
FAX-(260) 423-1590

IM-596531_1.DOC

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006, OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

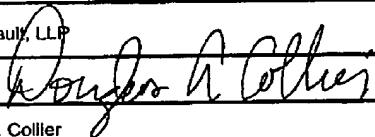
Total Number of Pages in This Submission

15

Application Number	10/083,199
Filing Date	February 28, 2002
First Named Inventor	Trieu et al.
Art Unit	3732
Examiner Name	Eduardo C. Robert
Attorney Docket Number	4002-2850/PC464.00

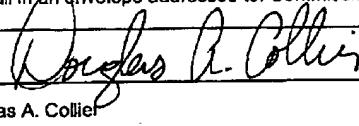
ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Krieg DeVault, LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Douglas A. Collier		
Date	March 14, 2005	Reg. No.	43,556

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Douglas A. Collier	Date	March 14, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including the gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.